Fruits and Vegetables and Processed Foods, and Marine products were discussed. In addition, various bottlenecks in increasing exports of some of the items including transportation bottlenecks were discussed and the States were advised to identify nodal agencies to deal with matters relating to agriculture exports.

(c) Most of the State Governments have already identified a nodal agency to deal with matters relating to agricultural exports. Some of the States have set-up necessary infrastructure such as Exort Promotion Councils or Corporations to assist exporters and even directly undertake exports. Besides generation of exportable surplus, the State Governments have also been attempting to streamline market linkages through cooperatives with a view to promoting exports. Orissa has set up a directorate of export promotion and marketing. Orissa has also established new tea plantations recently in the non-traditinal areas.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan and South Korea

2965. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron ore exports to Japan and South Korea has suffered a serious set back because of the frequent breakdown of handling facilities at Vizag port and that Japan proposes to opt out of the contract in view of the uncertain and unstable supply of iron ore;

(b) if so, what is the extent of backlog in the shipment of iron ore to these countries till date; and

(c) what are the major causes for the frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag port and what measures have been taken by Government improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Iron ore exports to Japan particularly have suffered a setback because of frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag. Japanese Steel Mills have expressed their dissatisfaction about the Iron ore export through Vizag port during this year.

(b) During the period April-November, 1985, 34.57 lakhs tonnes of iron has been shipped, including 3.39 lakh tonnes pertaining to last year's contract. Excluding this on prorata basis there is a short-fall of nearly 16 lakhs tonnes mostly to Japan.

(c) The shortfall has been primarily due to wearing out of old equipment like wagon tipplers and conveyor belt at the port. All efforts are being made to improve exports. Two too old tipplers are being replaced, pending which essential repairs have been carried out and both these tipplers are now working satisfactorily. A protion of the conveyor belt has also been replaced. The performance of the port in November has shown som improvement.

Tea and Coffee cultivation in Orissa

2966. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to bring more areas under tea and coffee plantation in Orissa; and

(b) what are the names of the areas in different districts in Orissa where tea and coffee plantation has started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Coffee Board and Tea Board are undertaking various developmental and extension activities besides providing loan and subsidy for encouraging new plantations. An office of the Senior Liaison Officer of Coffee Board is located at Koraput and an Extension Centre is located at Jaypore to provide technical guider and Advisory support to the coffee holdings in Orissa. A joint venture

company has been set up in Orissa to cover tea plantation in Keonjhar Distt. of Orissa and Tea Board has granted loan for this purpose. Coffee Plantation has been started in Machkund, Rayargada, Gudaygiri, Phulbani, Parlakhenumandi, Jaypore and Koraput.

Export of Wheat to Russia

2967. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shipment of 2,00,000 tonnes of wheat recently exported to Russia was found to be bug infested;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter; and

(d) what is the reaction of the Russian Governmen thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the wheat exported to USSR, the Russian Quarantine Authorities had found some marginal presence of Nevossia Indica Mitra, which is a plant disease.

(c) and (d) Marginal presence of Nevossia Indica Mitra is not toxic or harmful for human consumption. The matter has been discussed in detail with Technical Experts from the Soviet Union who have also inspected the wheat stocks. Samples have been sent for further analysis to the Soviet Union.

Distribution of re-rolling steel to re-rolling mills

2968. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria adopted by the Steel Authority of India Limited to distribute re-rollable steel to the steel re-rolling mills; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure that fictitious firms having no factories in existence do not succeed in drawing steel for sale in black market?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited distributes re-rollable materials to steel re-rolling mills on the basis of the best annual off-take from SAIL during the period 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84. Supplies to new|sick units are based on their entitlements fixed by the Iron and Steel Controller.

(b) The Iron and Steel (Control) Order has been amended recently to enable the Iron and Steel Controller to take action against those units or individuals who make false claims regarding existence of factories and seek to acquire iron and steel material. The Iron and Steel Control Organisation carries out regular inspections to detect such cases. Appropriate action is taken where required.

India-China protocol

2969. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have signed a protocol on or about November 2, 1985 for bilateral imports and exports;

(b) if so, what are the details of trade to be transacted thereunder between the two countries; and

(c) what are the details of exports to and imports from China during the years from 1981 to 1985 and during 1985-86 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. India and China signed a trade protocol on 23rd November, 1985.

(b) The two countries have agreed to establish trade of a total value of about US $100-160 million during